



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR LINCOLN CHAFEE ON THE RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Washington, D.C. – I congratulate Justice O'Connor for a historic and distinguished career on the court, and I wish her a long and happy retirement. She has served this country with intelligence and grace and has earned our admiration. The independence, self-reliance and good "horse sense" that she learned growing up on the Lazy B cattle ranch in Arizona has served us well.

I am hopeful that the President will nominate a candidate who is not only well qualified but is able to inspire broad support. I was a member of the group of 14 senators who crafted the recent compromise on the judicial nomination process. Our bipartisan group, led by Senator McCain, is committed to exercising the Senate's constitutional charge to provide advice as well as consent in the nomination process.

The President will soon choose his nominee and the Senate Judiciary Committee will begin its review process. This offers us an opportunity to bridge divisions that polarize the country and impede the work of government. I hope we have the good sense to seize this opportunity.

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